

## **Important New Legislation Affecting Montana Consumers**

NOTE: The Department will be drafting administrative rules and/or advisory memos for several of the legislative items listed below. These will be easily retrievable at our website: [www.sao.mt.gov](http://www.sao.mt.gov)

### **HB 156 – *Revise long-term care insurance laws* – (Rep. Eve Franklin)**

Requires consumers be notified of benefits summaries and denial of applications within 30 days; requires non-forfeiture benefits be offered as an option to purchase, and provides for fair process if the benefit is not purchased; states that if a policy is rescinded, insurer may not recover benefits paid out before the rescission.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007

**Advisory Memo**

**Administrative Rules**

### **HB 587 – *Limit insurance stacking on motor vehicle policies* -- (Rep. Himmelberger)**

Coverage specified under one policy or under more than one policy issued by the same company may not be added together if the premiums charged for the coverage actuarially reflect the limiting of coverage separately to the vehicles covered by the policy.

**Effective Date:** Upon approval

**Advisory Memo**

### **HB 687 – *Well child care* – (Rep. Bill Jones)**

Extends well child care from age 2 to 7. Coverage must include some preventive care, such as physical exams, immunizations, screenings, & development assessment.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2008; applies to policies and plans issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2008

**Advisory Memo**

### **HB 764 – *Military Suitability* – (Rep. Mike Milburn)**

Permits the Insurance Commissioner to protect *only* active duty military men and women from predatory insurance deals.

**Effective Date:** Upon approval

**Administrative Rules**

### **SB 157 – *SAO Housekeeping bill* – (Sen. Don Ryan)**

Revises insurance and securities laws.

**Effective Date:** On approval

**Advisory Memo**

### **SB 161 – *Captives* – (Sen. Rick Laible)**

Expands the types of captive insurance companies allowed in Montana, increases the types of coverage they can provide, and allows Montana to stay current with laws in other domestic domiciles.

**Effective Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**SB 204 – *Prevents insurer from requiring repairs or estimates...* – (Sen. Don Ryan)**

Prevents insurers from requiring claimants to get repairs or estimates done at certain auto body shops—allows access to competitive estimates and repairs.

**Effective Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Consumer information will be drafted**

**SB 276 – *Funeral directors*** – (Sen. Donald Steinbeisser)

Allow funeral directors to sell a funeral insurance policy to fund prearranged funerals that they plan

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2008

**Advisory Memo**

**Administrative Rules**

**SB 387 – *Cancer Screening disclosure*** – (Sen. Carolyn Squires)

Requires that written material describing cancer screening coverage must be supplied upon issuance of an insurance contract. *Prior* to the issuance of an individual or group disability insurance policy or an evidence of coverage, the same information must be provided, though this material is not subject to review by the Insurance Commissioner.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2008

**SB 419 – *Increase dependent age*** – (Sen. Greg Lind)

Increases age that children are covered by their parent's insurance to 25.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2008

**Advisory Memo**

**SB 535 – *Annuity suitability*** – (Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella)

The MT Annuity Suitability Act aims to protect all people who purchase annuities, chiefly by requiring agents to both consider consumers' individual financial circumstances when choosing investments and give the consumer relevant documents/buyer's guide.

**Effective Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**Advisory Memo**

**SB 542 – *Revise group life insurance payment options*** – (Sen. Don. Ryan)

Provides that payment for premiums come from the employer's funds contributed by the employer or funds contributed by the insured employees; strikes the section prohibiting employees from contributing 100% of premium costs.

**Effective Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**HB 537 – *Hail Insurance*** – (Rep. Rick Ripley)

Hail insurance may be issued for any crop or other agricultural or horticultural product subject to hail damage; increases the amount of actual insurance from \$40 to \$50 on non-irrigated land, and \$56 to \$76 on irrigated land.

**Effective Date:** Upon approval